

September 25, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) joined the Municipal Housing Authority in the City of Utica (UHMA) in announcing that they would receive two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill) grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) worth \$1,458,333 and \$583,333 respectively, in order to weatherize several Utica housing developments.

"Making these facilities energy efficient will not only benefit the environment but this project will also cut down on the high cost of home heating in the winter and allow residents to stay warmer and safer," **Arcuri said**, "I am pleased that the Municipal Housing Authority is pursuing these vital green initiatives using Recovery Bill funding and look forward to the completion of these necessary modernizations and upgrades."

"Green Community Initiatives are critically important to the well-being of our precious environment enabling our Housing Authority to realize the initiative we have set forth at Gillmore Village as well as the Adrean Terrace, N.D. Peters Manor, and F.X. Matt Apartments," **Dr. Taras J. Herbowy, Executive Director of the Municipal Housing Authority of the City of Utica said**, "Indeed, this shall improve the environment, avoid costly energy expenditures, and fulfill our mission to provide safe and affordable housing. We are very grateful to have this opportunity made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development."

The first HUD grant, worth \$1,458,333, will go towards the N.D. Peters, F.X. Matts, and Adrean Terrace complexes which are located in East Utica and consist of 349 units. These complexes were built between 1941 and 1960.

A recent energy audit determined that the boiler and hot water systems serving these housing complexes are obsolete and need to be replaced. The system is the original heating system and has exceeded its useful life expectancy. The replacement of these systems, as well as the other planned energy conservation improvements, is estimated to save between 25 and 35 percent in energy/water consumption and will significantly help to reduce UMHA operating expenses.

The second HUD grant, worth \$583,333, will fund moderate rehabilitation of the Gillmore Village development to increase energy conservation to the highest level possible. The major activity will be replacement of windows within the development.

Consisting of 190 units, Gilmore Village is situated in South Utica and was constructed in 1950. Based on a recent energy audit, the existing single pane windows in the development contribute to significant energy loss and need to be replaced with energy efficient double pane insulated glass windows. The replacement of these windows, along with other energy conservation improvements, is anticipated to save between 25 and 35 percent in energy consumption and will help to reduce future housing authority operating expenses.

The funding being announced today is part of an additional \$1 billion in Public Housing Capital Funds designated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill) to be awarded competitively. HUD accepted applications under this program from public housing authorities between June 22 and August 18.

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